

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /090 W

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R 150740Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 249

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: US-RP ECONOMIC NEGOTIATION: COCONUT OIL

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS REPORTEDLY STATED IN A SPEECH ON SEPT 14 THAT QUOTE IT IS MY INTENTION TO SEE TO IT THAT THE TREATMENT OF COCONUT OIL AND PALM OIL (IMPORTS TO THE US) WILL BE EQUALIZED; OTHERWISE, WE WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE US. END QUOTE. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WERE MADE BEFORE A GROUP OF SCHOLORSHIP WINNERS SPONSORED BY THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT FEDERATION AND WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLES BY GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS IN SEPT 15 MORNING EDITIONS.

2. THE BULLETIN TODAY QUOTED THE PRESIDENT AS SAYING: QUOTE ALL WE ASK IS JUSTICE. WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR AN UNUSUAL OR MORE FAVORED TREATMENT. THE UNITED STATES IS IMPOSING A TAX OF ONE PER CENT ON OUR COCONUT OIL IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES. THEY DO NOT IMPOSE ANY DUTY ON PALM OIL. CERTAINLY, IF THERE IS EQUITY AND JUSTICE, AS WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN PRODUCTS COMING INTO OUR COUNTRY, IF THERE IS ANY INTENTION TO TREAT OUR PRODUCTS EQUALLY WITH OTHERS, THEN

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LET US SEE TO IT THAT WE DO NOT PAY ANY MORE TARIFF

DUTY, OR IF WE ARE TO PAY THE ONE PER CENT PER POUND,
THEN LET THE OTHERS ALSO PAY ONE CENT A POUND. OTHER-
WISE, THERE WILL BE NO TRADE AGREEMENT. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: BROAD EXPOSURE GIVEN PRESIDENT'S RE-
MARKS IS IN LINE WITH MARCOS POLICY OF DIFFERENTIAT-
ING U.S. AND PHILIPPINE INTERESTS AND OF EMPHASIZING
PHILIPPINE CAPABILITY OF DEALING WITH US AS EQUAL ON
QUID PRO QUO BASIS. WHILE NONE OF THIS IS NEW,
FACT THAT THE PERSIDENT HIMSELF MADE THE STATEMENT
AND THE PUBLICITY WHICH STATEMENT SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED
REPRESENTS HARDENING OF GOP POSITION ON COCONUT OIL
AND SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE GOP IS ATTACHING IN-
CREASING IMPORTANCE TO AN ISSUE CENTRAL TO THE ECO-
NOMIC NEGOTIATIONS. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA14136
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760348-0606
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760959/aaaabxvl.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-RP ECONOMIC NEGOTIATION: COCONUT OIL
TAGS: ETRD, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006